

## Capsule Summary

### **Inventory No. WA-I-207**

Cool Brook Farm

20225 Lehman's Mill Road

Washington County, MD

Ca. 1790 (house); ca. 1930 (house addition); 1925 (barn, burned 1975); 1975 (new barn)

Access: Private

The Cool Brook Farm complex is a large collection of historic and modern agricultural and domestic buildings still in active use as a dairy farm by the Shank family, who have owned the farm since 1864. The buildings are representative of the agricultural history of the county from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to current farming practice. Situated in the northeast section of Washington County, just a mile south of the Pennsylvania border, the landscape consists of rolling fields dotted with numerous outcrops of limestone. The Cool Brook Farm property has 14 contributing domestic and agricultural buildings, 1 contributing site said to be a slave cemetery, and 1 non-contributing building.

The Cool Brook Farm is a significant example of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century through modern-day agricultural complex. Still actively in agricultural use, its remarkable collection of buildings represents the changes in agricultural practice in the mid-Atlantic, particularly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farm and building complex are significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with historical patterns of agricultural practice from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the mid-Atlantic region, and under Criterion C as a complex of domestic and agricultural buildings which retain distinctive design and construction techniques representative of the region.

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### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Turkey Buzzard; Belt's Distillery; Cool Brook Farm (preferred)

other Shank Farm

## 2. Location

street and number 20225 Lehman's Mill Road not for publication

city, town	Hagerstown	X	vicinity
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county Washington

### 3. Owner of Property

(gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name I. David and Linda Shank

street and number 14435 Marsh Pike telephone

city, town	Hagerstown	state	MD	zip code	21742-1647
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#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Washington Co. Courthouse	liber	1733	folio	452
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city, town	Hagerstown	tax map	11	tax parcel	13	tax ID number	N/A
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## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☒ Other: MIHP (1976)

## 6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count		
	district		public	X	agriculture		landscape	
X	building(s)	X	private		commerce/trade		recreation/culture	14
	structure		both		defense		religion	1
	site			X	domestic		social	
	object				education		transportation	
					funerary		work in progress	15
					government		unknown	1
					health care		vacant/not in use	
					industry		other:	
							<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	

## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### *Summary*

The Cool Brook Farm complex is a large collection of historic and modern agricultural and domestic buildings still in active use as a dairy farm by the Shank family, who have owned the farm since 1864. The buildings are representative of the agricultural history of the county from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to current farming practice. Situated in the northeast section of Washington County, just a mile south of the Pennsylvania border, the landscape consists of rolling fields dotted with numerous outcrops of limestone. The Cool Brook Farm property has 14 contributing domestic and agricultural buildings, 1 contributing site said to be a slave cemetery, and 1 non-contributing building.

This agricultural complex, known for more than 150 years as Cool Brook Farm, is located on the north side of Lehman's Mill Road about one half mile east of the Marsh Pike, north of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland. The house is situated on a gentle slope and faces south overlooking the fields on the south side of the road. Marsh Run borders the southern section of the farm on the west. A slave cemetery, with three to seven field stone markers still standing, is located along this border approximately 1000 feet southwest of the main house. North and west of the house is the "Cool Brook" which flows from the springhead behind (north) the house, running west and then south to join Marsh Run. The floodplain of the brook serves as wooded pasturage for goats and geese today. North of the barn complex are cultivated fields and the farm's woodlot to the northeast. To the east of the farmstead complex is pasturage for cattle. The pasture is bordered on the east by a low wooded ridge on which a limekiln is said to have been located. Beyond the ridge are the eastern cultivated fields. Located along another ridge of limestone outcrop in the east fields is the reported location of the early farm's slave quarters, no longer extant.

### Main House

The main house is sited facing south on a low hill, which falls gently to the north toward the barn complex. The yard area is grassy with mature trees and decorative plantings. A small section of the south yard is laid out for a vegetable garden. Reportedly, much of the south house yard was historically cultivated as a market garden.

The dwelling is two stories, five bays, built of roughly coursed local limestone. Decorative exterior masonry consists of flat arches of stone above openings at the first story level. A two story, four bay ell also of stone construction extends to the rear or north. This wing was constructed c. 1930. At the same time, an original 1 ½ stone section, set on an axis with the main dwelling and attached to its east end, was removed. The east end wall of the main house was reconstructed as an exterior wall and exhibits decorative elements indicative of 1930s construction.

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On the south (front) elevation, windows toward the east end of the house are set more closely together than openings in the west half. Where original window frames remain they are wide with quarter round trim. Nine over nine pane double hung sashes are present at the first story level while nine over six pane sashes are used at the second story. Most windows are flanked with shutters which are louvered at the first story and have recessed panels at the upper level windows. The main entrance with its raised panel door is located in the center bay of the front elevation. It is sheltered by a one story shed roofed porch.

The remaining sections of the main house appear to have been constructed in two phases although both exhibit decorative elements from the same late 18<sup>th</sup> century time period. The east, three bay section has corners finished with quoins on both ends. The west, two bay section appears to be an addition onto the west end wall of the east section. Interior inspection, however, did not reveal any evidence of a west end wall in the lower story rooms, and no evidence of a gable end in the attic.

The roof is covered with slates and extends beyond the end walls of the house. Brick chimneys are located inside each gable end. A modern stone chimney extends from inside the end wall of the ell.

Complete access to the interior was not available, however, the central entrance hall includes an elegant spiral staircase; the woodwork was updated in the 1930s. The staircase structure, which is partially located in the west addition, appears to be the load bearing replacement for the apparently removed west wall of the east section (see above). The first floor of the west section of the house includes a small front parlor and a kitchen; the east section includes a large formal front parlor and a smaller back parlor.

### Outbuildings and Barns

East of the main house is a shed-roofed woodshop with a pole garage attached. The 1 ½ story woodshop has German lapped siding and decorative architraves around the windows. The east elevation, now enclosed by the garage, has decorative double doors with arched panels. It has the appearance of having been a commercial shop at some point in its history. North of the double doors is a projecting shed-roofed entrance to a root cellar below the woodshop. The cellar has poured concrete walls, floor, and storage areas. The west, 1 ½ story elevation was originally attached to the east gable end of the now demolished eastern-most section of the dwelling house.

Located northeast of the dwelling are two adjoining stone outbuildings. The more southerly structure is 1 ½ stories high and two bays in length, and is a combination springhouse/smokehouse. Originally a one-story springhouse with shallow upper loft, the roof was raised to 1 ½ stories and extended eastward to include the addition of the east smokehouse room. The smokehouse has a fireplace in its south end wall east of the roof peak. The springhouse section on the west side of the building is situated directly over a flowing spring of

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water. The ceiling of the lower story in this structure consists of heavy hewn joists laid side by side and topped with a layer of rocks and mortar. The joist ends are exposed in the exterior stone walls. A plank door, two six-light windows, and a slatted window opening with plank shutter are located on the west elevation. The original east elevation of the springhouse, now enclosed by the smokehouse, also had an entrance which was in-filled with stone, probably when the smokehouse was added. An opening located on the west side of the south gable end provides access to the upper story room above the springhouse. Scantling panel divides the upper story room from the smokehouse room. Another opening is centered in the south gable peak. The building's roof is covered with sheet metal. Projecting from the south gable end is a small concrete block building which encloses the springhead.

Immediately south of the springhouse/smokehouse is a modern metal frame, two bay truck garage; this is considered the only non-contributing building on the property, it having no historical or agricultural associations.

Attached to the springhouse/smokehouse on the north gable end is a slightly larger stone structure of similar proportions. According to the present owner this complex is said to have been a distillery at one time; it was later used as a blacksmith's shop. An entrance with plank door is located in the exposed southeast corner of the south gable. The east elevation is three bays with a central entrance; the west elevation a door and two window bays. Windows are six over six sash. The interior of the building is one large room with heavy timber beams and posts supporting the structure. A spring water trough runs along the floor of the west wall. West of the springhouse complex, along southeast side of the "Cool Brook" which emanates from the springhouse at the northwest corner, is a frame, two bay goose shed. Embellished with German lapped siding and decorative pointed architraves around its two windows, the shed is unusually elaborate for its simple function and small size.

When this farm was surveyed for the Maryland inventory in 1974 a frame dairy barn built in 1925 with gambrel roof topped with metal ventilators stood just north of the springhouse complex. In 1975, that barn burned to the ground and was replaced with the arched roof barn now standing. Using the banked stone north wall of an even earlier barn (see historic photo attached), which was removed in 1925, the current barn has a lower stall and feeding area which opens into the southern barnyard. The hay storage area above is accessed from the north elevation using the stonewall reinforced bank used by the previous two barns. A stone and concrete lined cold-room and a stone-lined cistern are located under the east side of the embankment. A concrete block milking parlor built in 1968 is attached to the east elevation of the barn. This room houses modern milking equipment. Much of the south barnyard is covered with frame loafing sheds. North of the barn is a five bay pole and frame equipment shed.

Other outbuildings related to agricultural use are located to the east of the barn. A frame wagon shed/corncrib stands immediately to the east, its gable end fronting south. The siding is vertical planks with horizontal slats covering the corncribs. Two rollers hanging from the ceiling were reportedly used to raise and store wagon beds (see photo #16). The rollers were turned by



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inserting a pole into the holes drilled into the roller at intervals. Two frame sheds adjoining each other are located east of the wagon shed; one shed houses farm machinery, the other is a "free-stall barn." Northeast of the sheds facing south is a metal, four bay equipment shed.

A small frame hog shed with an upper story corncrib is located southwest of the main house, on the immediate north edge of Lehman's Mill Road. The building is no longer in use but is in good condition. The gabled roof extends beyond the east elevation providing protection for the corncrib and stall below. On the south side of Lehman's Mill Road, southeast of the main house, is a long, one-story, shed roofed chicken house. The frame building faces south, has a door on the west elevation and a series of small openings along the base of the north elevation. Presumably the south elevation has a bank of hinged windows typical of chicken houses, however, no access was possible due the area's use as pasturage for cattle. Another identical chicken house, recently demolished, was located immediately to the west of the standing chicken house.

The buildings appear to be in excellent condition and are located on a tract containing 205 acres, part of a grant called *Turkey Buzzard* surveyed in 1791 for Thomas Bell (Belt).

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science			
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history			
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____			
<b>Specific dates</b>	1820 (distillery); c.1779-		<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown			
<b>Construction dates</b>	c.1790 (house); c. 1930 (house addition); 1925 (barn, burned 1975); 1975 (new barn)						
Evaluation for:							
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register		<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not evaluated			

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Statement of Significance

The Cool Brook Farm is a significant example of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century through modern-day agricultural complex. Still actively in agricultural use, its remarkable collection of buildings represents the changes in agricultural practice in the mid-Atlantic, particularly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farm and building complex are significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with historical patterns of agricultural practice from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the mid-Atlantic region, and under Criterion C as a complex of domestic and agricultural buildings which retain distinctive design and construction techniques representative of the region. The main house, springhouse and distillery building, all constructed using local limestone, represent an important aspect in the development of the regional architecture in the Cumberland Valley. Even the original bank barn, dismantled in 1925, was built primarily of limestone. As agricultural practice in the mid-Atlantic region shifted from general, grain production farming to a focus on dairy production in the 1930s and 1940s, most farm complexes acquired a number of distinctive dairy-related buildings. The Cool Brook Farm's dairy barn, built in 1975 after lightning destroyed a 1925 barn, is a good example of the adaptation of the historic bank barn technology to modern dairy requirements. Yet even with the changes in farming practice, Cool Brook Farm retains many of the historic buildings, converted to new uses as necessary through the history of the farm.

### Resource History

The history of the Cool Brook Farm stretches back to the earliest records available in Washington County. Carved out of Frederick County in 1776, Washington County included the westernmost reaches of Maryland. The land had been offered at very low prices beginning in 1732 to induce immigrants from the northern colonies, particularly Pennsylvania, and from Europe, to settle in Maryland rather than continue their trek through the valley to Virginia. A

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number of those with more disposable wealth began to acquire larger tracts of land, either to establish themselves as "lords of the manor," or to sell smaller tracts at a profit. Grants or patents of land were obtained from the Maryland land office while the grantee paid to have the property surveyed.

In the northeastern region of Washington County, later known as the Leitersburg District, one of the larger land grants, called *Long Meadows Enlarged*, was issued in 1763 to Col. Henry Bouquet for 4,163 acres. The original *Long Meadows* grant had been obtained in 1739 by Thomas Cresap for 550 acres. After adding several parcels to his original grant, in 1751 Cresap sold the plantation of nearly 800 acres to Daniel Dulaney, Jr. Dulaney had it resurveyed, as *Long Meadows Enlarged* with 2,131 acres. Bouquet's resurvey of the tract in 1763 nearly doubled the acreage again. Following his death, the tract was sold to Joseph Sprigg in 1773. Sprigg subdivided and sold the large acreage primarily in four parcels, the two largest being 1,300 acres to Samuel Hughes and 781 acres to Thomas Sprigg in 1779.<sup>1</sup> The Sprigg family occupied the plantation called Sprigg's Paradise, which grew wheat as the cash crop of choice in the region with the use of one of the largest slave populations in the county.<sup>2</sup>

Beginning around 1779, Thomas Belt began amassing his own manor property. Through a series of purchases, he eventually surveyed 512 acres into one land patent in 1791, which he named *Turkey Buzzard*.<sup>3</sup> The plantation included parts of *Long Meadow Enlarged*,<sup>4</sup> adjoining Sprigg's Paradise, and part of a tract called *Well Meant*. One of the parcels included in *Turkey Buzzard* was part of a property called *Coliers Amendment*, which Belt had purchased from Henry Snider in 1779. The 125 acres cost Belt £7,000, a very large amount of money for the time, indicating that the property may have already had improvements on it. Belt, who described himself as a "farmer" of Washington County in the deed, may have been developing the acreage before his 1779 purchase.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Belt appears to have lived on his Washington County plantation intermittently. In 1790, he appears on the census record in the Elizabeth Town Hundred, where the farm was located, with a boy over the age of 16, two women, and 17 slaves. According to Bell's *History of Leitersburg District*, Thomas Belt had married but had no children.<sup>6</sup> Ten years later, on the 1800 U.S. Population Census, Belt does not appear in the district. Serving as the Washington County Register of Wills during this time period, he may have moved into Hagerstown (Elizabeth Town).<sup>7</sup> By 1810, Belt had returned to his plantation, by then aged 69, with his wife and 25 slaves. Belt also had a tenant on the farm named Barton Bean.

In 1820, the elderly Thomas Belt had again moved to Hagerstown. There he wrote his Last Will and Testament in 1822. Having produced no children, Belt devised to his nephew Thomas Walter Belt, the "plantation [where] I formerly resided," described as leased by Barton Bean.<sup>8</sup>

Barton Bean was the head of a household with 14 family members in 1820, one man "not naturalized," was perhaps an employee.<sup>9</sup> Bean also held two slaves. The 1820 Manufacturer's Census for Washington County confirms that Barton Bean was operating a distillery in the "3<sup>rd</sup>



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District," where the Belt farm was located.<sup>10</sup> The small operation processed rye and corn into whiskey, worth 35 cents a gallon, and employed one man. Barton Bean's distillery was among 22 other distilleries listed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, the largest concentration in the county, which numbered 47 distilleries among its four districts.<sup>11</sup> In his *History of Leitersburg District*, Bell notes:

While the mills of the District have always been a prominent feature of its business and manufacturing interests, there was a time when they did not constitute the only local market for grain. Distilling was also a business of considerable importance. In proportion to its bulk whiskey was many times more valuable than flour, and as transportation was expensive and laborious it is not surprising that a large part of the cereal product of the District found its way to market through the still. The profits were also large, the plant did not usually involve a large investment of capital, and hence many men were engaged in the business.<sup>12</sup>

Thomas Belt's Will indicates that he retained at least one slave until his death in 1823. Among his requests was that "my servant Tom be emancipated and have the use of the house in which he now resides with three acres of land adjoining it during his natural life."<sup>13</sup> In 1827, when nephew Thomas W. Belt of Baltimore sold the then 423-acre plantation to George I. Harry, a provision was included, "reserving, however, to the use of Negro Tom during his natural life the house in which he at present resides situate on said land together with three acres of land contiguous to the said House."<sup>14</sup> Cultivated rose bushes growing among the limestone outcrop in the east fields of the current farm may indicate the location of Negro Tom's house. The slave cemetery, located along the creek on the southwestern border of the farm may also be Tom's final resting place.<sup>15</sup>

George I. Harry owned the Belt plantation for 27 years, giving it the name "Cool Brook Farm." Harry owned significant amounts of other land in Washington County, including some which later became "Harry's Addition" to the city of Hagerstown. He lived with his wife Susan in a house in Hagerstown and through the ensuing years leased the farm to tenants, the first apparently being the tenant farming partnership of Samuel Lecron and Lewis Keller.<sup>16</sup> subdivided part of the Belt plantation for sale to a neighboring farmer.<sup>17</sup> George Harry's Will written in 1846 and probated in 1847, instructed his executor to sell Cool Brook Farm.<sup>18</sup> The sale of the 437 acres, "commonly called the 'Cool brook farm'," to Dr. Dennis Murphy of Berkeley County, Virginia (later West Virginia) was finalized in 1854 at a price of \$17,917.<sup>19</sup> Dr. Murphy, like George Harry, apparently did not occupy the farm, listing Berkeley County, Virginia still as his place of residence when he sold the farm two years later to Henry Snively.<sup>20</sup>

Snively immediately parceled off 200 acres of the farm, selling part of it to Isaac Jacobs four days after his own purchase in May 1856 (see 1877 map).<sup>21</sup> In 1859, the remaining 236-acre

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Cool Brook Farm was sold by Snively to William Hager.<sup>22</sup> Finally, in 1864, the farm was sold to Isaac Shank of Franklin County, Pennsylvania just a few miles to the north.<sup>23</sup>

In 1869, Isaac and Susan Shank sold a 31 ¼ acre parcel to Henry F. Layman (Lehman). The Lehman family had been operating a mill on Marsh Creek just west of Cool Brook Farm since 1854. The mill, now known as Lehman's Mill, was described in earlier deeds as "Sprigg's old mill" and "David Brumbaugh's Mill," before its purchase by Jacob Lehman.<sup>24</sup> Henry Lehman developed the property in the 1860s to its current appearance.<sup>25</sup>

The remaining 205 acres of Cool Brook Farm have passed from father to son in the Shank family through four generations.<sup>26</sup> Many of the more significant changes to the farm operation and its buildings occurred during the ownership of Isaac R. Shank beginning in 1922. According to family lore, the original stone-end bank barn was dismantled in 1925 and replaced with a frame bank barn (see photo of original barn). The new barn probably reflected a new emphasis on commercial dairy production, which was appearing on farms throughout Washington County. About five years later, the old, 1 ½ story western-most section of the house was dismantled and a stone ell wing was added to the back of the house.

The Shank family, members of the United Brethren church, probably converted the distillery building to a blacksmith shop, although that may have occurred before their purchase of the farm. Gradually other dairy-related buildings have been constructed, including loafing sheds, the free-stall barn, and the milking parlor in 1968. Equipment sheds reflect the growing emphasis on mechanical aids in farming since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As noted above, the frame barn constructed in 1925 was struck by lightning in 1975 and replaced with the current barn. The loss of large barns to lightening is historically quite common, and few old barns still standing retain entirely historic superstructures as a result.

**Note: For Historical Context, please refer to *An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland*, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catocin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.**

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bell, Herbert C. *History of Leitersburg District*. Waynesboro, PA: The Caslon Press, 1985, originally published 1898.

1820, Manufacturer's Census record for Washington County, microfilm copy, Western Maryland Room, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

Washington Co. Land and Estate Records, Washington Co. Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.

U.S. Population Census Records, microfilm collection, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Approx. 205 acres

Acreage of historical setting Approx. 10 acres

Quadrangle name Hagerstown, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Cool Brook Farm are defined by the outlines of Parcel 13, shown on Washington County Tax Map 11 and 25, under the title "Cool Brook Lands, Inc." and totaling 205.01 acres.

The Cool Brook Farm boundaries as defined above represent the historic boundaries of the farm since 1869.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian

organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.

date 30 December 2002

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street

telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> This series of transactions are described in Herbert C. Bell, *History of Leitersburg District*, (Waynesboro, PA: The Caslon Press, 1985, originally published 1898), p.22.

<sup>2</sup> In 1810, the Sprigg family listed 38 slaves on the U.S. Population Census record; nearby landowner Charles Carroll, son of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, listed 35 slaves.

<sup>3</sup> Washington Co. Land Patent Book 2, page 93. There are two surveys of *Turkey Buzzard*, both of the same date, December 29, 1791, one for 502 acres and one for 512 acres. Both surveys were conducted by Joseph Sprigg. It is not clear which survey was accepted as the official survey of *Turkey Buzzard*.

<sup>4</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book A, page 415. January 23, 1779, Joseph Sprigg sold 20 acres of *Long Meadow Enlarged* to Thomas Belt, both described as "farmer" of Washington County. The same day Belt sold Sprigg 40 acres of *Long Meadow Enlarged*; it appears that Belt was already established in the area and that he and Sprigg were rearranging their common boundary to suit their farming needs.

<sup>5</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book B, page 276. *Coliers Amendment* had been patented in 1768 by Frederick Nicodemus for 448 acres, apparently for the purpose of subdivision (Land Patent Book 1, page 173, Washington Co. Courthouse). Although it is impossible to know for sure, since the earliest part of the Cool Brook Farm house was demolished in 1930, it is possible that the western-most section was constructed c.1779. Historic photographs (no copy available) show it was a 1 1/2 story stone building.

<sup>6</sup> 1790 U.S. Population Census, Washington Co., Maryland; Bell, p. 225.

<sup>7</sup> Scharf, p. 991, lists Belt in 1804 county records as Register of Wills; Bell, p. 225, says Belt served "more than a score of years" as Register of Wills.

<sup>8</sup> Washington Co. Will Book C, page 218.

<sup>9</sup> 1820 U.S. Population Census, Washington County, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, microfilm copy, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

<sup>10</sup> 1820 Manufacturer's Census record for Washington County, microfilm copy, Western Maryland Room, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

<sup>11</sup> The four districts divided the triangular county geographically, 1<sup>st</sup> District was south, 2<sup>nd</sup> District was middle, 3<sup>rd</sup> District was northeast including Hagerstown, and 4<sup>th</sup> District was northwest. The 4<sup>th</sup> District had the second largest number of distilleries at 14; the 1<sup>st</sup> District reported 9 distilleries and the 2<sup>nd</sup> District followed with 2.

<sup>12</sup> Bell, p. 99.

<sup>13</sup> Washington Co. Will Book C, page 218.

<sup>14</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Book II 30, page 360. In 1819, Thomas Belt sold 201 1/2 acres to Michael Wolfinger's heirs (Deed Book DD, page 676), for \$10,075, indicating that that section of the farm was probably tenanted by the Wolfinger family and had been in the process of sale prior to Michael's death. 80 acres of this parcel are again part of the current Cool Brook Farm (Deed Book 622, page 537).

<sup>15</sup> Members of the Shank family, current owners of the farm, identified both the slave cemetery and the possible location of the slave quarters in the east field. Slave ownership on the farm appears to have ended with Thomas Belt and tenant Barton Bean.

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<sup>16</sup> Bell, p. 226.

<sup>17</sup> Approximately 40 acres to Jacob Miller, see 1859 map.

<sup>18</sup> Washington Co. Will Book D, page 645.

<sup>19</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book IN 9, page 89. The farm was sold for \$41 per acre.

<sup>20</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book IN 10, page 791. Snively's purchase price was \$23,207.

<sup>21</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book IN 10, page 793.

<sup>22</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book IN 14, page 51.

<sup>23</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book IN 17, page 493. Hager must have had a tough go with the farm he had purchased for \$16,992 and sold to Shank for \$16,583, a net loss of \$409.

<sup>24</sup> Deed IN 10, page 791 described the mill in 1856 as "David Brumbaugh's Mill (now owned by Jacob Lehman)"; Deed IN 5, page 374 (the Belt to Wolfinger parcel) described the mill in 1850 as "Sprigg's old mill."

<sup>25</sup> "Lehman's Mill District," WA-I-523, National Register Documentation.

<sup>26</sup> Washington Co. Land Records: Deed Book 108, page 472, Isaac Shank to Abram B. Shank (1898); Deed Book 162, page 106, Hartle and Wolfinger, trustees of Abram Shank to Isaac R. Shank (1922); Deed Book 451, page 85, Caroline Shank, widow of Isaac R., to Abram E. Shank (1967); Deed Book 622, page 537, Abram E. Shank to Isaac David Shank trading as Cool Brook Lands, Inc. (1976).



MAP	BLOCK	PARCEL
-----	-------	--------

# PENNSYLVANIA

WA-I-207  
COOL BROOK FARM  
WASHINGTON CO., MARYLAND  
TAX MAP 11 AND 25 (COMBINED)  
BOUNDARY

PARCEL 13

107.10A.  
P.12

BERT  
51

P.65

COOL BROOK LANDS, INC.  
G22/537  
205.01A.  
P.13

MAP 25-F.6

MAP 25

MAP 11-P.13  
(ON MAP 25)

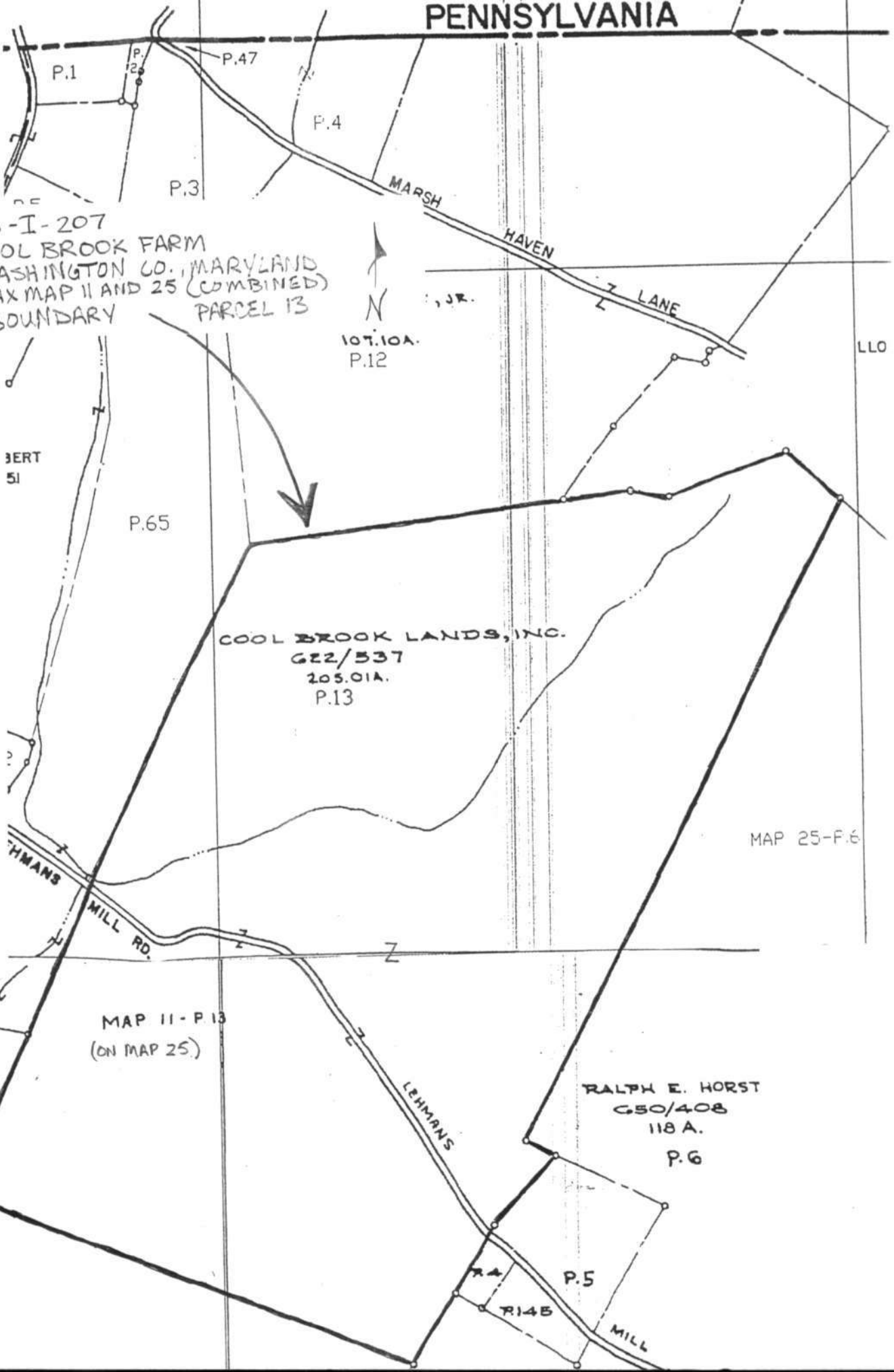
RALPH E. HORST  
G50/408  
118 A.  
P.6

P.4

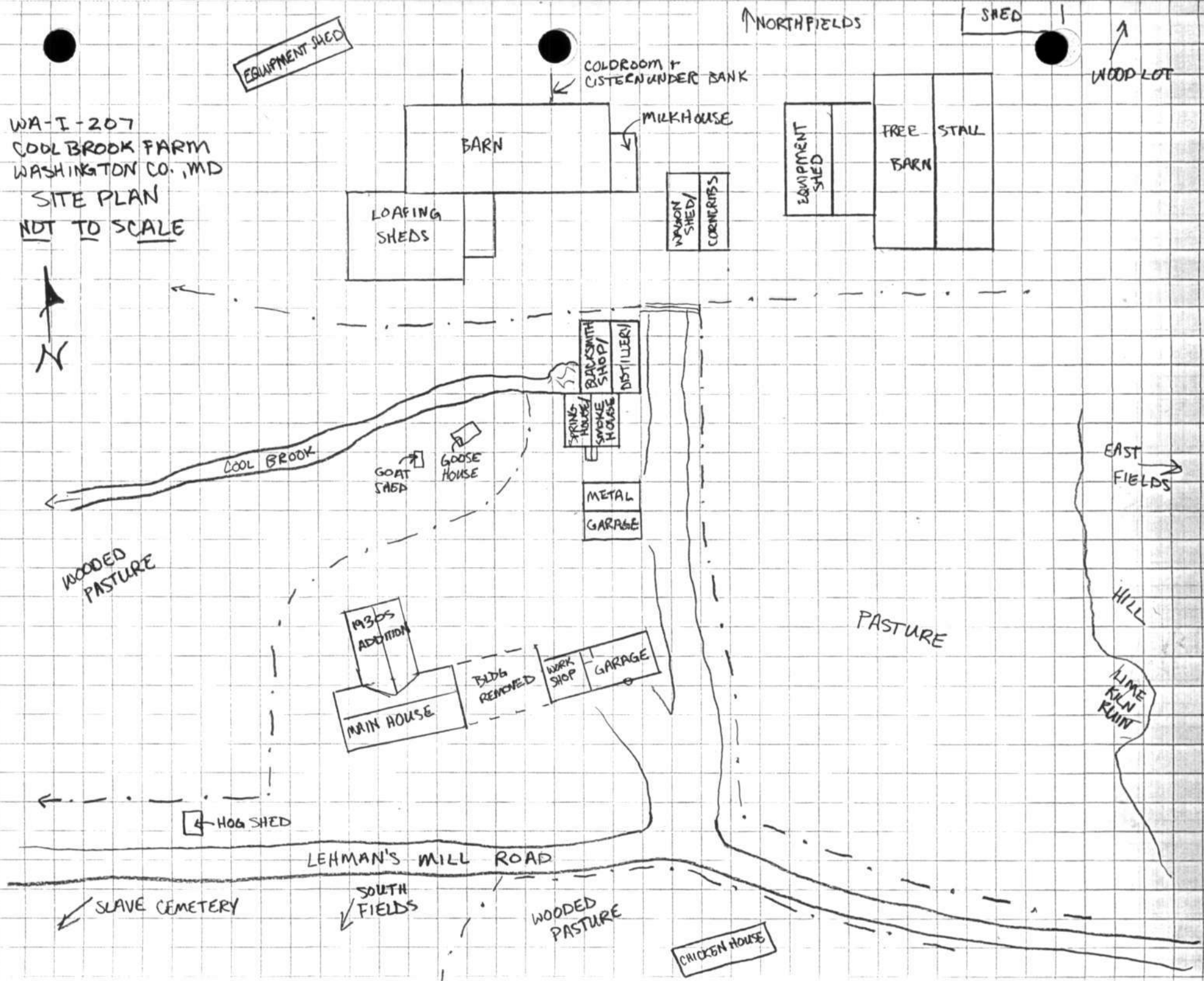
P.5

P.145

MILL



WA-I-207  
COOL BROOK FARM  
WASHINGTON CO., MD  
SITE PLAN  
NOT TO SCALE

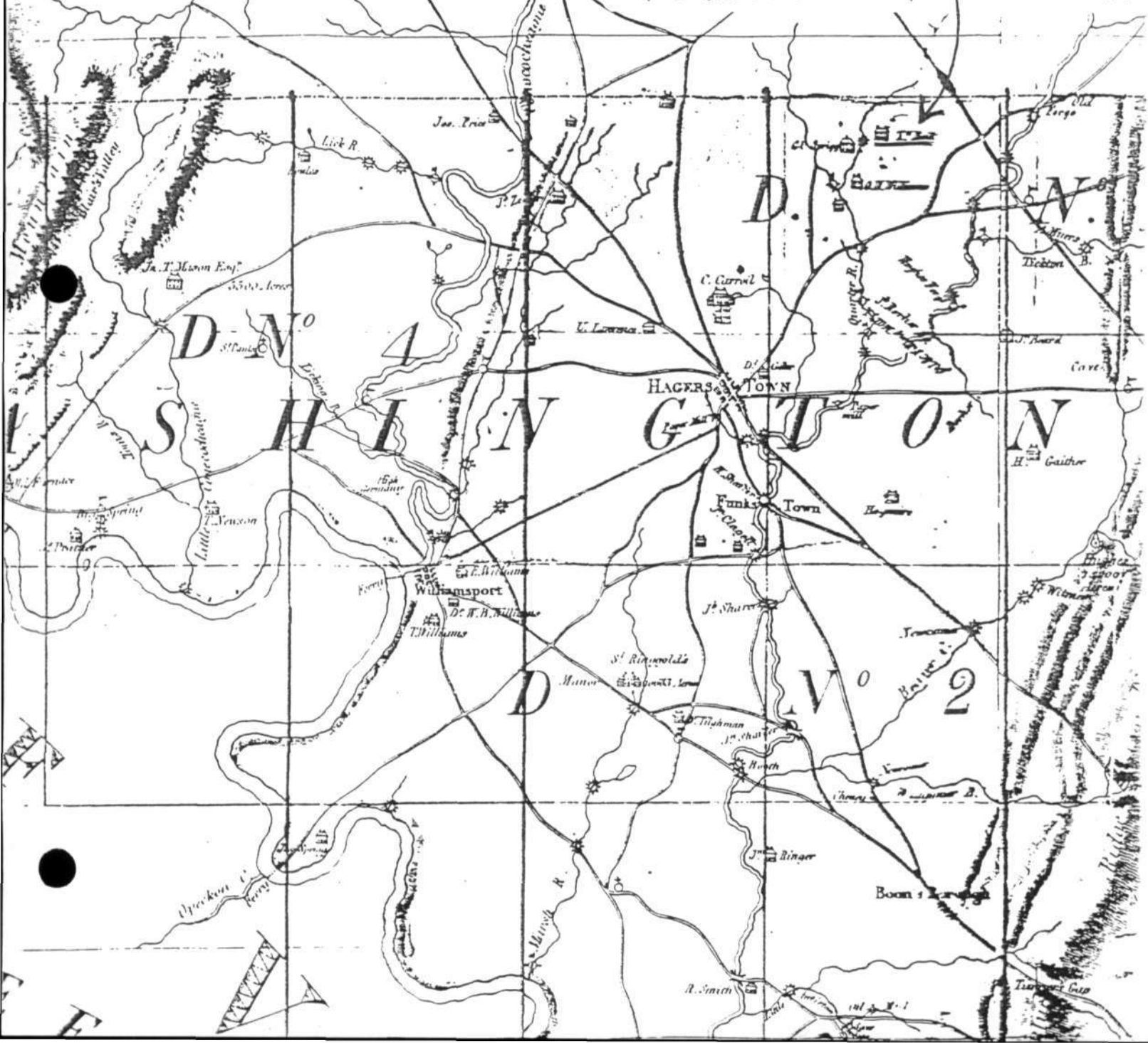


# FRANKLIN C

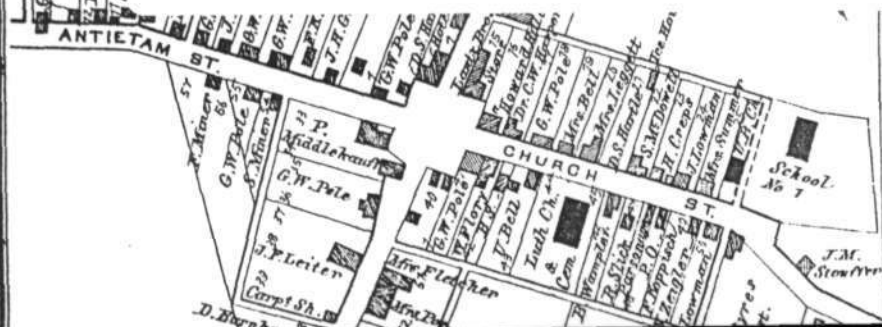
Magersburg

Green Castle

WA-I-207  
COOL BROOK FARM  
WASHINGTON CO., MARYLAND  
1808 Charles Varlé Map



WA-I-207  
 COOL BROOK FARM  
 WASHINGTON CO., MARYLAND  
 1877 ATLAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY



#### LEITERSBURG BUSINESS REFERENCES.

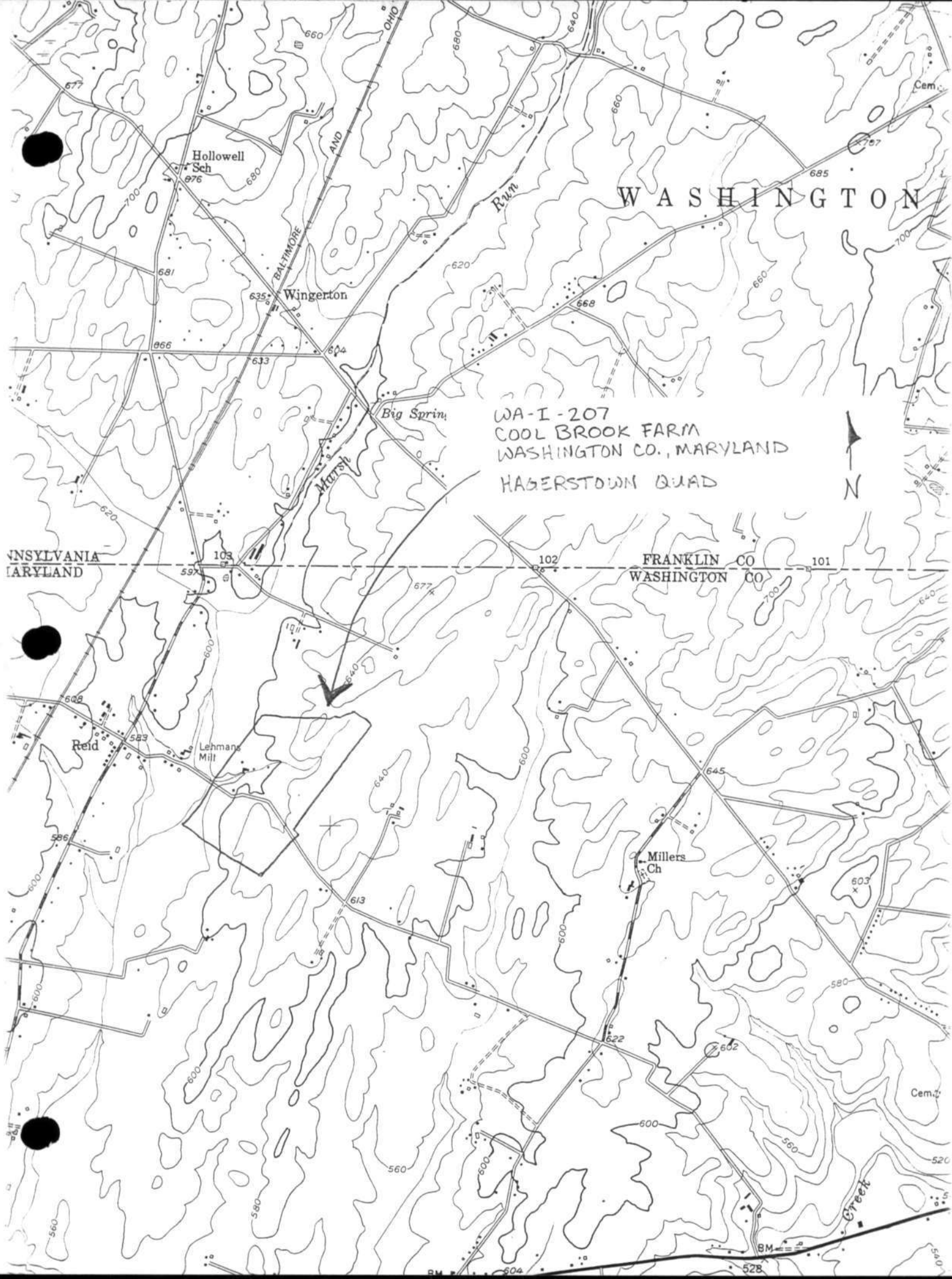
C. W. Harper, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. Office and Residence on Church street.  
 Samuel Strite, Proprietor of Grist Mill, Manufacturer of first-class brands of Flour. Mill on Antietam Creek.  
 Christian Lehman, Proprietor of Freedom Flouring Mills. Best brands of Flour Manufactured and kept constantly on hand. Also, Meal, Feed, and Ship Stuffs. Sawing done to order on short notice at reasonable prices. Location on Antietam Creek, 1 1/4 miles

## LEITERSBURG

DIST. NO 9

Scale 2 inches to the Mile









WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSAPO

Building complex overview, view NE from the slave  
cemetery

1/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSAPO

Main house, W and S elevations, view NE from  
Lehman's Mill Rd

2/27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm  
Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Woodshop, E elevation inside garage, entrance

3/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPD

Root cellar interior, below woodshop

4/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSAPO

Chicken House, N and W elevations, view SE from  
Lehman's Mill Rd.

5/27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm  
Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Hog Shed, E and N elevations, view SW from main  
house yard

6/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Goose shed, S and W elevations, view NW from  
rear (N) main house yard.

7/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Springhouse, distillery, and agricultural complex  
view NE from rear (N) main house yard

8/27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MD SHPO

Springhouse/smokehouse and distillery, S and E  
elevations, view N

9/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Springhouse/smokehouse, S elevation, detail showing original springhouse gable prior to smokehouse addition, block addition covers the springhead.

10/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Springhouse, W elevation, showing exposed punch on  
beam ends

11/27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co, MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Springhouse interior, trough detail

12/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Springhouse interior, puncheon ceiling detail

13/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHIP

Smokehouse interior, E wall of springhouse (W interior wall of Smokehouse), punched beam end detail

14/27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Wagonshed/corr cribs, S elevation, view N

15/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm  
Washington Co., MD

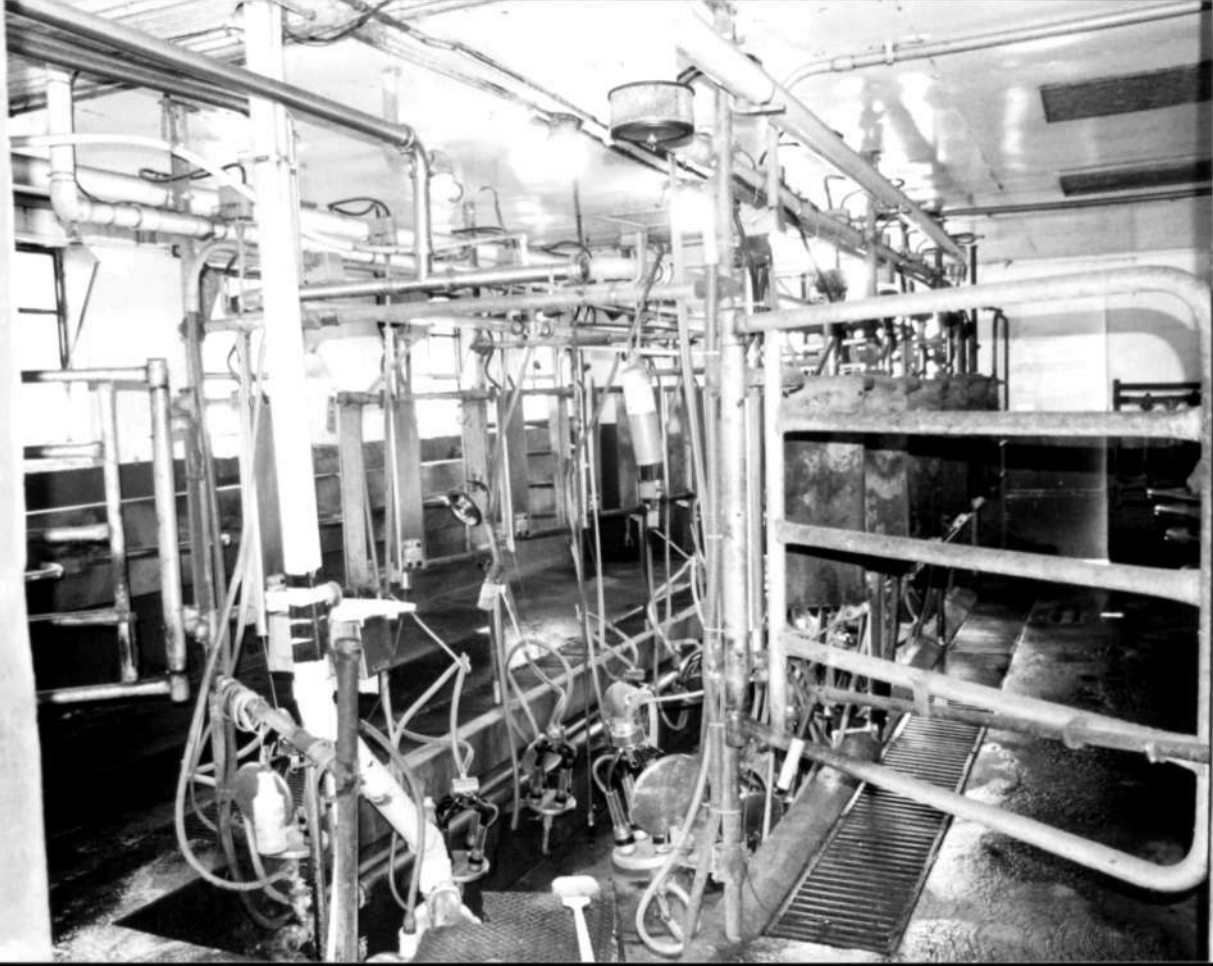
11/02

P. Reed

MD SHPO

wagonshed/corner ribs, interior ceiling detail

16/27



WA-I-207

Cobl Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

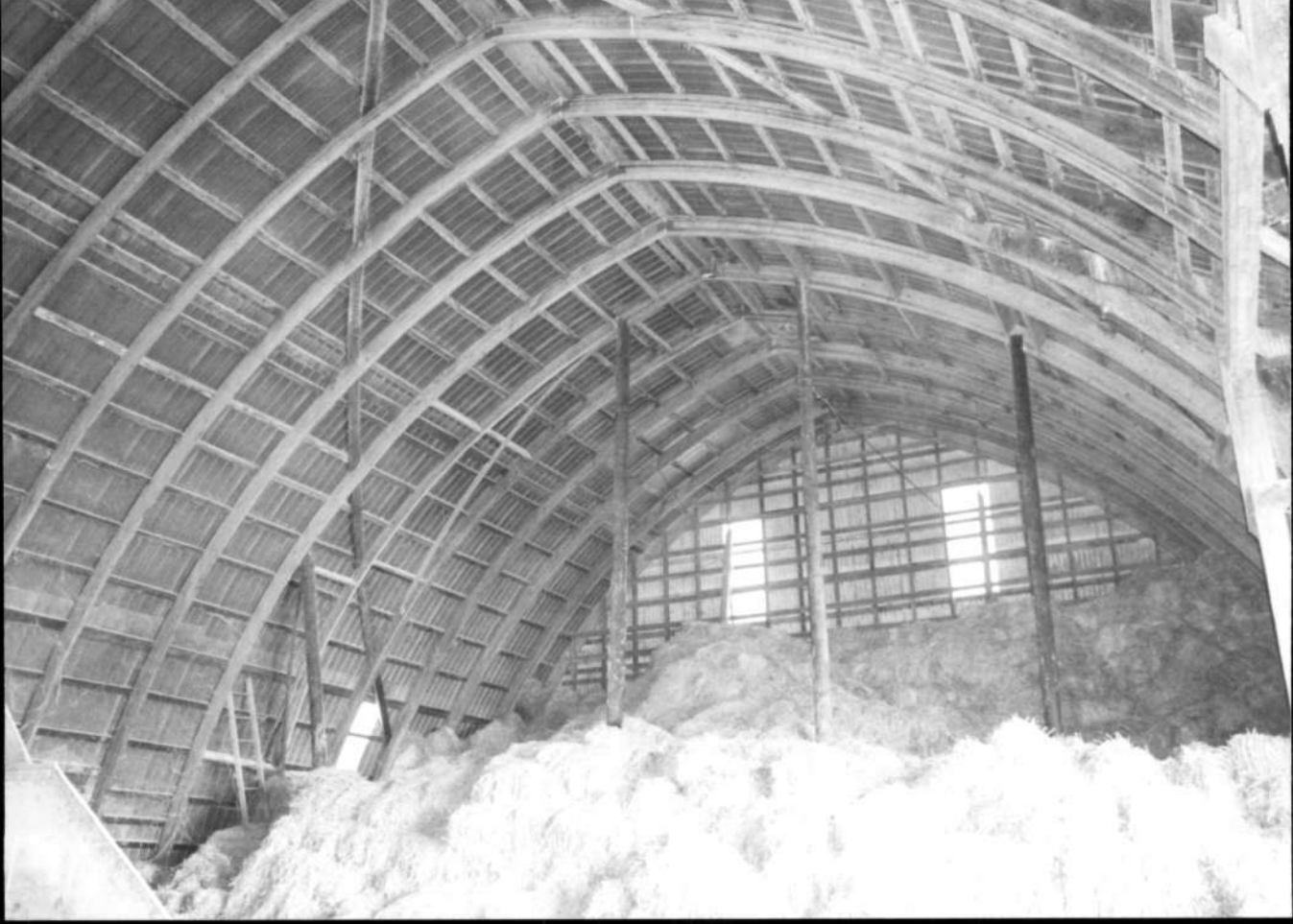
11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

milkroom interior

17/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm  
Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Barn interior, view toward W end, upper story

18/  
27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Barn interior, lower story, detail of original barn  
bank wall

19/29



WA-I-20T

Cool Brook Farm  
Washington Co., MD

11/02

R. Reed

MDSHPO

View S toward distillery and springhouse from barn  
lower story

20/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSTHPO

Overall view of agricultural complex, view N from  
Lehman's Mill Rd.

21/27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MD SHPO

Pasture E of building complex, stone scatter in trees indicates  
location of former lime kiln, view E from Lehman's  
Mill Rd.

22/  
27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Slave cemetery, W edge of S fields

23/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Lehman's Mill Rd, stone culvert over  
view NW from W property line

24  
1/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co, MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Shank family photo of first barn on farm c. 1910, view N,  
Second barn burned in 1975, third barn extant.

25/27





WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MDSHPO

Overall view of agricultural complex from  
east fields, view NW

26/27



WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm  
Washington Co., MD

11/02

P. Reed

MD SHPO

East Fields, rock outcrop in center possible  
location of slave quarters, view N from  
Lehman's Mill Rd.

27/27

ABSTRACT

WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Hagerstown Vicinity

private

Late 18th Century

The Cool Brook Farm complex consists of what appears to be a late 18th century limestone dwelling, a complex of stone outbuildings set directly over a spring and a 20th century frame dairy barn. Together this group provides an example of an early Washington County farmstead utilizing the native limestone as its primary building material. The use of limestone for construction purposes is an important aspect in the development of the regional architecture in the Cumberland Valley. This particular complex was once the center of a farm of more than 500 acres.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-I-207  
District 9  
Map 11  
Parcel 13

2201965204

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cool Brook Farm

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Lehman's Mill Road, East of Marsh Pike

CITY, TOWN

☒ VICINITY OF Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Abram E. Shank

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route # 8, Box 74

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 503

Folio #: 132

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 3066

DATE

Summer 1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

## 7 DESCRIPTION

WA-I-207

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT      ☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ GOOD      ☐ RUINS  
☐ FAIR      ☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED  $\leq 50\%$

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This agricultural complex known for many years as Cool Brook Farm, is located on the north side of Lehman's Mill Road about one half mile east of the Marsh Pike, north of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland. The house is situated on a gentle slope and faces south.

The dwelling is a two story, five bay structure built of roughly coursed local limestone. Decorative exterior masonry consists of flat arches of stone above openings at the first story level. A two story, four bay el also of stone construction extends to the rear or north. This wing, moved to its present location in recent years, originally was set on an axis with the main dwelling and attached to its east end.

Windows toward the east end of the house are set more closely together than openings in the west half. Where original window frames remain they are wide with quarter round trim. Nine over nine pane double hung sashes are present at the first story level while nine over six pane sashes are used at the second story. Most windows are flanked with shutters which are louvered at the first story and have recessed panels at the upper level windows.

The main entrance with its raised panel door is located in the center bay of the front elevation. It is sheltered by a one story shed roofed porch.

The roof is covered with slates and extends beyond the end walls of the house. Brick chimneys are located inside each gable end. A modern stone chimney extends from inside the end wall of the el.

Located northeast of the dwelling are two adjoining stone outbuildings. The more southerly structure is one and a half stories high and two bays in length. Its extensive roof area is covered with sheet metal. This building is situated directly over a spring of water and has a fireplace in its south end wall east of the roof peak. The ceiling in this structure consists of heavy hewn joists laid side by side and topped with a layer of rocks and mortar. A door is located high in the south gable. Attached to this building is a slightly larger stone structure of similar proportions. According to the present owner this complex is said to have been a distillery at one time.

North of these buildings is a 20th century frame dairy barn having a gambrel roof topped with metal ventilators. Other outbuildings related to agricultural use are located nearby.

The buildings appear to be in excellent condition and are located on a tract containing 205.01 acres, part of a grant called "Turkey Buzzard" surveyed in 1791 for Thomas Bell (Belt).

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cool Brook Farm complex consisting of what appears to be a late 18th century limestone dwelling, a complex of stone outbuildings set directly over a spring and a 20th century frame dairy barn. Together this group provides an example of an early Washington County farmstead utilizing the native limestone as its primary building material. The use of limestone for construction purposes is an important aspect in the development of the regional architecture in the Cumberland Valley. This particular complex was once the center of a farm of more than 500 acres.

On September 8, 1791, a warrent of resurvey was granted to Thomas Belt (Belt) to allow him to incorporate into one tract several adjoining pieces of land he had acquired along with any vacancies that remained among them. The tracts to be resurveyed included the "Resurvey on Long Meadows Enlarged," "Part of Amendment" and "Part of Well Meant." The entire tract resurveyed for Thomas Belt contained 512 3/8 acres and was named "Turkey Buzzard." Thomas Belt had acquired the several tracts making up Turkey Buzzard in various transactions taking place over a period of years.

It seems clear that Thomas Belt resided on the property and probably built at least part of the house on Cool Brook Farm. A dwelling is depicted on this site on Charles Varle's 1808 Map of Frederick and Washington Counties.

In his will probated December 9, 1823, Thomas Belt leaves his plantation to his nephew, Thomas Walter Belt of Baltimore, noting that the property on which he had formerly resided was now under lease to Barton Brun (Bean). (Will Liber C, page 218). In 1827, Thomas Walter Belt sold the plantation, then containing 473 acres to George I. Harry (II/360). After Harry's death, his executors sold the farm to Dr. Dennis Murphey (IN9/89). Within the next ten years the farm changed hands three times with the building being set off in a separate 236 acre tract (IN10/791, IN14/51, IN17/493). The family of the present owner acquired the farm in 1864 for \$16,583.43. It has descended through the Shank family as recorded in the following deeds: 108/472, 162/106, 187/378, 187/379, 483/116, 451/85, 503/131, 503/132.



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bell, Herbert C., History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Md: The Author, 1908.  
 Varle', Charles, A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.  
 Washington County Land Records.  
 Washington County Patent Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 205.01 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

**Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Washington County Historical Sites Survey**

STREET & NUMBER

**County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street**

CITY OR TOWN

**Hagerstown**

DATE

**September 1976**

TELEPHONE

**791-3065**

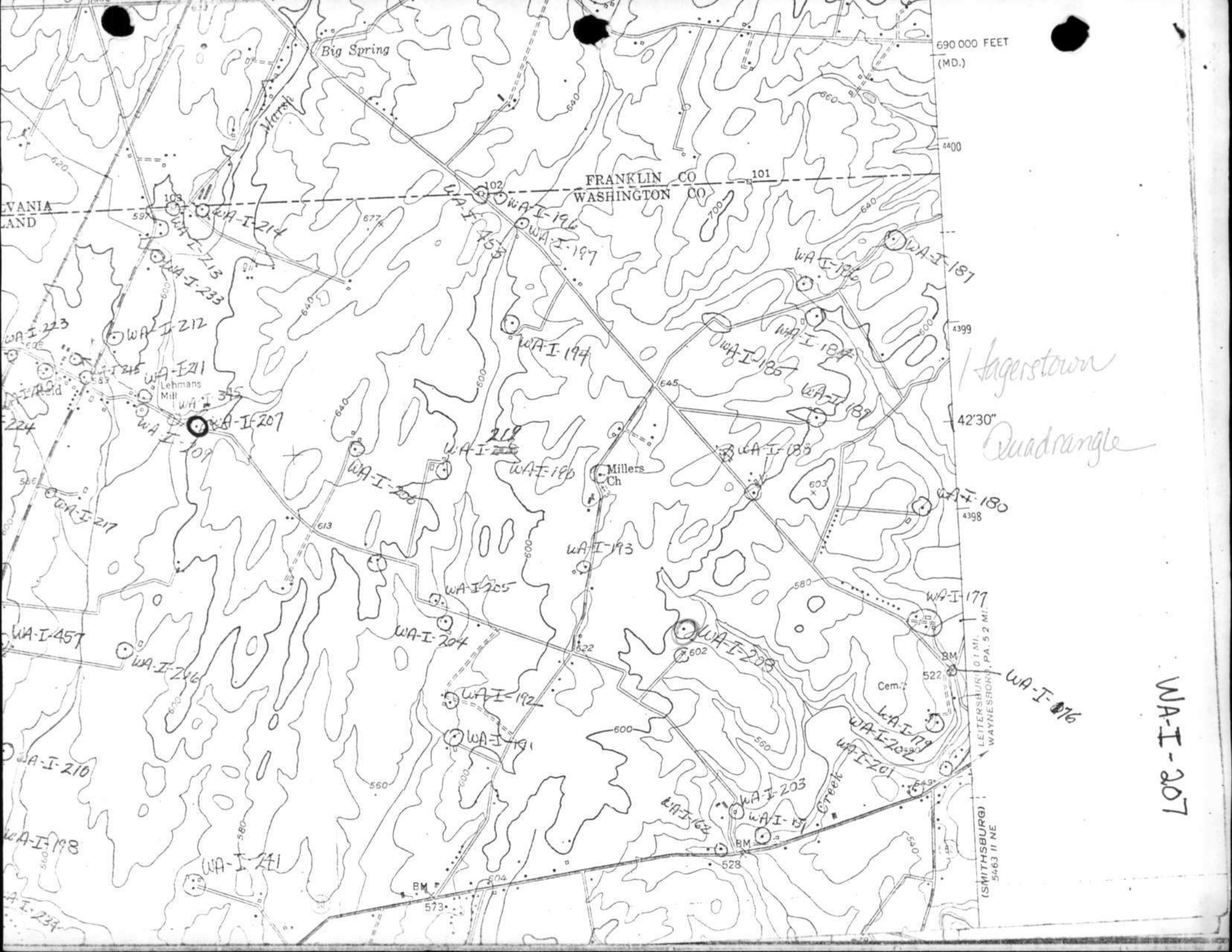
STATE

**Maryland 21740**

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438



690 000 FEET  
(MD.)

FRANKLIN CO  
WASHINGTON CO

*Lagerstown  
Quadrangle*

WA-I-207

LEITERSBURG, PA. 5.2 MI.  
WAYNESBORO, PA. 5.2 MI.  
(SMITHSBURG)  
5463 II NE



WA-I-207

S.W

June, 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-I-207

S.E

June, 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
STEWART, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-I-207

N.E.

June, 1974

SIGNER DICKY  
WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





WA-I-207

S.E. - Outbuilding

June, 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY